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FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

14 00

## Solar farm gets 'do not pass' recommendation

Paddlefish Solar project stimied by Area Plan Commission ruling

By JONATHAN SNYDER

The Wells County Area Plan Commission unanimously agreed to send a "do not pass" recommendation to the County Commissioners for the overlay district requested by Paddlefish Solar.

The solar project had requested to overlay 49 parcels of agriculturally zoned land in Liberty Center and Chester townships with a P-1 district for energy development. The issue will now go to the Wells County Commissioners, who can vote to approve or disapprove the request regardless of the APC's ruling. Their next meeting is at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 18.

The APC — over the course of four hours — heard a presentation from Paddlefish Solar and various public comments about the project and its potential tax benefits, impact on property values, and any future large-scale solar projects. Over 15 people spoke during the public comments section, with nearly all of them stating their

opposition to the project.

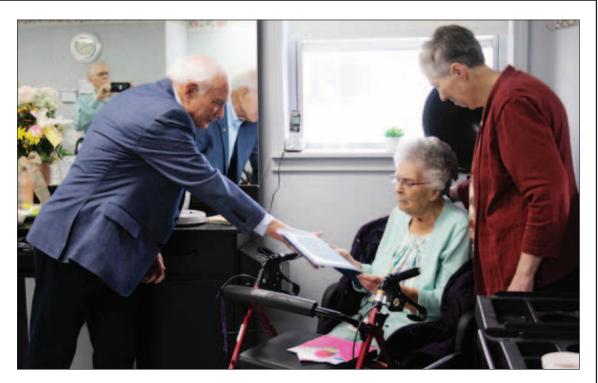
APC member Chandler Gerber made the motion for the "do not pass" recommendation, saying that the project appeared to be inconsistent with the Wells County Comprehensive Plan. The motion was passed unanimously by all other board members, Tyson Brooks, Tim Rohr, Board President Jerome Markley, Board Vice President Bill Horan, Jarrod Hahn, Melissa Woodworth, Geoff Lance, John Potter, John Schuhmacher and Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser.

Paddlefish Solar is jointly owned by EDF Renewables and Geenex Solar. Representing the group Thursday were Regional Project Development Manager for EDF Renewables Jesse Laniak, Project Developer Lana Gabrilyan and Director of Community and Governmental Relations Trena Roudebush. The group spent the bulk of their time talking about the

their time talking about the (Continued on Page 2)



Paddlefish Solar representatives Lana Gabrilyan, Jesse Laniak and Trena Roudenbush presented their request for an Overlay District for solar development in southern Wells County to the Area Plan Commissioner Thursday night. The APC unanimously gave a "do not pass" recommendation to the request. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)



### 101 Birthdays

While Velmarose McCormick was getting her hair done for her 101st birthday, she enjoyed cake, punch, and an extra special surprise - Mayor John Whicker declared March 9, 2024, as Velmarose McCormick Day. In his proclamation, Whicker recognized McCormick as a "force for good" as a lifelong resident of Wells County. Above, Whicker presents the proclamation to McCormick alongside McCormick's daughter, Janis Jones. Whicker, McCormick, Jones, and Jones' husband, Howard Jones, are shown at right. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



### Indiana undecided on chronic student absenteeism plan

By CASEY SMITH Indiana Capital Chronicle

In the final days of the legislative session, Indiana lawmakers are still trying to address the thousands of Hoosier students who are missing multiple days — even weeks — of school each year.

In negotiations is Senate Bill 282, authored by Sen. Stacey Donato, R-Logansport. The latest draft of the proposal, focused on chronic absenteeism, requires school districts to prohibit habitually truant elementary students — those who have 10 or more unexcused absences — from participating in extracurricular activities.

Under the bill, school officials must additionally report habitually truant students to prosecutors' offices. Prosecutors would then have to notify parents that they've filed affidavits related to their students' absenteeism.

The House and Senate approved different drafts of the bill, but the two chambers now have to agree on a final version.

Donato said the "emphasis" of the bill is for children between the ages of six and 10 "who are absent, excessively, to get what they need to get that education."

How, or if, lawmakers will get the bill across the finish line is still unclear.

"We're working on some

amendments. We are almost there, but at this point ... we're going to continue to do our negotiations," Donato said in a short conference committee on Wednesday.

Indiana's absenteeism problem

State lawmakers were adamant to move bills in the 2024 session to help improve student literacy and bolster career readiness. That included the passage of Senate Bill 1, which will require schools to hold back third graders who do not pass the statewide IREAD test as part of a push to improve reading.

Legislative leaders said, too, that ensuring Hoosier kids actually show up to class is part of their priority agenda.

The latest Indiana data shows that about 40% of students statewide missed 10 or more school days last year, and nearly one in five were "chronically absent" for at least 18 days.

Student absences have been on the rise since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indiana and across the nation. Although Indiana's latest numbers show slight improvements, absentee rates during the 2022-23 school year were still 8% higher than before the pandemic.

Educators around the state say the reasons for absences vary, but family challenges some students (Continued on Page 2)

### Biden uses State of the Union to contrast with Trump

By ZEKE MILLER and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden turned his State of the Union speech Thursday night into an animated argument for a second term as he laced into GOP front-runner Donald Trump for espousing "resentment, revenge and retribution" and jeopardizing freedom at home and abroad.

Over and over, Biden delivered

broadsides at "my predecessor" without ever mentioning Trump by name — 13 times in all — raising his voice repeatedly as he tried to quell voter concerns about his age and job performance while sharpening the contrast with his all-butcertain November rival.

It was a far feistier tone from Biden than his prior State of the Union addresses and it was designed to banish doubts about whether the 81-year-old is still up to the job. For 68 minutes in the House chamber, Biden goaded Republicans over their policies, invited call-and-response banter with fellow Democrats on economic issues, taxes and healthcare and seemed to revel in the fight.

"Freedom and democracy are under attack both at home and overseas at the very same time," Biden said as he appealed for Congress to support Ukraine's efforts to defend itself against Russia's invasion. "History is watching."

Biden quickly pivoted to the threats at home, referencing the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol by Trump supporters seeking to overturn the 2020 election, and calling for the threat to democracy to be countered.

"My predecessor — and some of you here — seek to bury the truth about Jan. 6 — I will not do that," Biden said. "This is a moment to speak the truth and to

bury the lies. Here's a simple truth. You can't love your country only when you win."

"My lifetime has taught me to embrace freedom and democracy," Biden said. "A future based on the core values that have defined America: honesty, decency, dignity, equality. To respect everyone. To give everyone a fair shot. To give hate no safe harbor. Now some other people my age see a (Continued on Page 2)

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### Outside



Showers likely today and tonight with wind gusts

Today	Saturday	Sunday
	High 49	
Low 43	Low 29	Low 27

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### LOCAL/NATION

### Solar farm

(Continued from Page 1) local impact of the solar grid from a financial and natural standpoint.

According to Laniak's projections, the solar grid would have decreased tax rates from 1.18% to 0.96%, with an estimated tax revenue of \$90 million.

Roudebush also mentioned that there would be vegetative screens that would block some of the views from residential areas, game fencing along the perimeter so that farmers and any wildlife would not be hindered, and any land not used by the solar farm would be potentially reverted to tillable acreage.

However, a majority of public comments centered around the potential for other large-scale solar projects to enter the area and siphon land away from farmers. Most every comment against the project was followed by applause from the audience.

Robert Park, Uniondale, stated that while he has no issue with private solar panels for individual houses, the large-scale overlay district could set a precedent

for future projects, hindering Wells' ability to produce crops. Bruce Monce, Chester Township, and Tabby Fate, Warren, echoed those sentiments.

Once you get the camel's nose under the tent, then you are going to get the whole camel," said Jody Holloway, Bluffton.

"There seems to be a gold rush coming to Indiana for solar," Lance said.

County Commissioner Jeff Stringer, County Council member Brandon Harnish and Bluffton Common Council member Blake Fiechter also expressed their doubts about the project's benefits for Wells County. Stringer stated that while the tax abatement was approved, by the County Council public opinion needed to be taken into account.

Linda Stanton, Poneto, also questioned how the project would affect local property values. However, the Paddlefish representatives later brought out Rich Kirkland, a state-certified appraiser, who said the project would not affect property

Also speaking against

the request were Kathie Mounsey, Phil Leas, Jarrod Mounsey, Judy Craig, Jim McAfee, Diana Collins, Benjamin Herman and John Maddox. Trent Lehman, superintendent of Southern Wells schools, spoke neither in favor nor against but reaffirmed that the school district should be considered in any tax benefits.

One individual, Stacy Wagner of Posey County, provided a positive take on the project, saying many of the project's supporters were unlikely to be as loud as its opposition. The Paddlefish team met this with quiet applause.

The APC also received 20 letters preceding the meeting from various individuals in and out of the county. Of the Wells County residents, four wrote in favor of the request and three wrote against the

APC members Lance, Gerber, Schuhmacher, Woodworth and Brooks all expressed their opposition. Gerber stated that the Wells County Comprehensive Plan mentions that the community valuing agricultural background and the lack of public support for solar farms stands in opposition to the solar project.

"It feels inconsistent to support this when I signed off on a comprehensive plan 15 months ago," Gerber said.

Before the motion was given, the APC was reminded that their role was to pay reasonable regard to the Wells Comprehensive Plan, the current conditions and character of current structures and uses in each district, the most desirable use for the land, the conservation of property values, and responsible development and growth of the land.

"There are five points that we have to give due diligence to," said Brooks. "We spent a lot of time on property value. I agree with (Paddlefish about the conservation of property values), but (the other) 80%, of other four points, could be equally argued in either direction. But I can't in good conscience be comfortable with a do-pass recommendation with an 80% argument in not favor of it ... The only point that is 100% good is property values."

ionathan@news-banner.com

### Weather

feet at 9:45 p.m. Thursday

Friday, March 8, 2024 (24-hour observations at 9:38 p.m. Thursday) High: 48, Low: 39, Precipitation: None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.64

### Wells County forecast

Today: Showers, mainly after 10 a.m. High near 58. South wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Tonight:** Showers. Low around 43. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Saturday: Rain likely, mainly before 10 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 49. Northwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Saturday Night: A chance of rain and snow showers before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. West wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. Breezy. Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 53.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 38. **Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.

Tuesday Night: A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45.

Wednesday: A 20% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 62.

Wednesday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly

cloudy, with a low around 44. Thursday: A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a

high near 65.

### State of the Union

(Continued from Page 1) different story: an American story of resentment, revenge, and retribution. That's not me."

The president showcased his accomplishments on infrastructure and manufacturing, and pushed Congress to approve more aid to Ukraine, tougher migration rules and lower drug prices. He also sought to remind voters of the situation he inherited when he entered office in 2021 amid a raging pandemic and a contracting

The 81-year-old president was being closely watched not just for his message, but for whether he could deliver it with vigor and command.

White House aides said Biden was aiming to prove his doubters wrong by flashing his combative side and trying to needle Republicans over positions he believes are out of step with the country, particularly on access to abortion, but also tax policy and healthcare. It's part of his campaignyear effort to use even official speeches to clarify the choice for voters at the ballot box this fall.

Taking a victory lap in selling his legislative accomplishments, such as one that bolsters manufacturing of computer chips nationwide, Biden veered from his prepared script to take a dig at Republicans who voted against such policies but are eager to take credit for them back home.

"If any of you don't want that money in your districts," Biden said, "just let me know."

The president was speaking before a historically ineffective Congress. In the GOP-led House, Speaker Mike Johnson took power five months ago after the chaotic ouster of former Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Legislators are still struggling to approve funding bills for the current year and have been deadlocked for months on foreign assistance bills to help Ukraine stave off Russia's invasion and support Israel's fight against Hamas.

The State of the Union address is a marquee night on the White House calendar, offering presidents a direct line to a captive audience of lawmakers and dignitaries in the House chamber and tens of millions of viewers at home. But even so, the night has lost some of its luster as viewership has declined.

White House and on his campaign had hoped for some fresh viral moments like when he tussled last year with heckling Republicans and chided them for past efforts to cut Medicare

and Social Security. Johnson, eager to avoid a similar episode this year, urged Republicans in a private meeting Wednesday to show "decorum" during the speech, according to a person familiar with his remarks to lawmakers.

He appeared to have limited success. A number of House Republicans began to stand up and leave the chamber as Biden discussed raising taxes on billionaires and corporations. Other, like Johnson, remained in their chairs and shook their heads.

Biden engaged in a loud call and response with lawmakers as he rhetorically questioned whether the tax code was fair and whether billionaires and corporations need "another \$2 trillion in tax breaks," as he charged Republicans want.

One of the most contentious moments of his speech came during his remarks on immigration, when Biden was running down the endorsements by conservative groups of the bipartisan border legislation that Republicans killed last

Some in the audience appeared to yell and interject, and Biden shot back, "I know you know how to

As Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, decked out in pro-Trump paraphernalia, continued to shout at Biden, the president held up a white button that the Georgia Republican had handed him earlier bearing the name of Laken Riley, who authorities say was killed by a Venezuelan national who unlawfully crossed into the U.S. in September 2022.

"Laken Riley," Biden said, calling her an "innocent young woman who was killed by an illegal." He expressed condolences to her family, saying his heart goes out to them.

And congressional Republican leaders were showcasing one of their newest lawmakers through the State of the Union rebuttal in order to make a generational contrast with Biden. Alabama Sen. Katie Britt,

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"Right now, our commander-in-chief is not in command. The free world deserves better than a dithering and diminished leader," Britt was to say, according to excerpts released Thursday evening. "America deserves leaders who recognize that secure borders, stable prices, safe streets, and a strong defense are the cornerstones of a great nation."

Biden painted an optimistic future for the country as the massive pieces of legislation he signed into law during his first two years in office are implemented. But he also was set to warn that the progress he sees at home and abroad is fragile — and particularly vulnerable if Trump returns to the White

Trump, for his part, said he planned to respond in real time to Biden's remarks on his Truth Social platform.

This year, Biden faced heightened emotions particularly among his base supporters — over his staunch backing for Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. The White House had initially hoped a short-term cease-fire would be in place by the speech. It blames Hamas for not yet accepting a deal brokered by the U.S. and its allies.

A slew of Democrats and Republicans wore pins and stickers in honor of the Israeli hostages still being held captive in Gaza. Meanwhile, several House progressives wore Palestinian keffiyehs, the black and white checkered scarfs that have come to symbolize Palestinian solidarity. Biden's motorcade took a circuitous route to the Capitol, as hundreds of procease-fire demonstrators tried to disrupt its path from the White House.

Amid growing concerns about the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, Biden announced in his address that he has directed the U.S. military to establish a temporary port on the Gaza coast aimed at increasing the flow of aid into the beleaguered territory.

The president also issued an emphatic call for lawmakers to pass sorely needed defense assistance for Ukraine. Acute ammunition shortages have allowed Russia to retake the offensive in the 2-year-old war.

The GOP-controlled House has refused to act on a Senate-passed version of the aid legislation, insisting on new stiffer measures to limit migration at the U.S.-Mexico border, after Trump used his influence to help sink a bipartisan compromise that would have done iust that.

Access to abortion and fertility treatments was also a key component of Biden's speech, especially in light of a controversial ruling from Alabama's Supreme Court that has upended access to in vitro fertilization treatment in the state.

One of first lady Jill Biden's guests for the speech was Kate Cox, who sued Texas, and ultimately left her home state, to obtain an emergency abortion after a severe fetal anomaly was detected.

"If Americans send me a Congress that supports the right to choose I promise you: I will restore Roe v. Wade as the law of the land again," Biden said. Several House Democratic women were wearing white -- a symbol of women's suffrage -- to promote reproductive rights.

The White House also invited union leaders, a gun control advocate, and others that Jill Biden and her husband have met as they traveled the country promoting his agenda. The prime minister of Sweden, Ulf Kristersson, will attend to mark his country's accession to NATO in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Expelled and disgraced, former Rep. George Santos, who still retains floor privileges as an ex-member of Congress, also showed up for the speech.

Going into the State of the Union, Biden also has raised the problems of "shrinkflation" – companies putting fewer pretzels in the jar and less yogurt in sealed cups — and so-called "junk fees" on services. Neither is a prime driver of inflation, but the White House hopes to show consumers that Biden is fighting for them. Biden also unveiled an

expanded plan to raise corporate taxes and use the proceeds to trim budget deficits and cut taxes for the middle class.

### **Absenteeism**

(Continued from Page 1) face at home, along with hard-to-break tendencies to keep kids home when even mildly unwell — a habit borne out of the pandem-- are key factors. And schools are getting creative

to try to combat the growing

Education experts note that being absent as few as three days out of the school year affects test scores and overall academic performance. Getting to school every day also helps kids develop a routine and increases their influential engagement time with adults.

The student demographic groups with the largest gaps in state language arts and math testing since the pandemic are more likely to be chronically absent.

A bill in flux

Still, policymakers have struggled to advance significant solutions for absentee-

Senate Bill 282 requires school attendance officers to implement a truancy prevention policy. Schools would have to intervene if elementary school students miss significant amounts of school without an excuse or parental notification.

If a student has five unexcused absence days within a 10-week period, school representatives, teachers and parents of the truant student would also have to meet to establish a plan to prevent future truancy. Habitually truant students - already defined in state law as those who have missed 10 or more days of school without an excuse or parental notification - may face referral to juvenile court.

It's a departure from an earlier version of the bill unanimously passed by the Senate, which sought to decrease school truancy by increasing family involvement with courts.

The House-approved version also deleted a provision that would have urged the legislative council to assign an interim study committee to tackle the issue. In the House chamber

earlier this week, Rep. Sue Errington, D-Muncie, was concerned the legislation would push children who miss school into the juvenile justice system. Bill sponsor Rep. Martin

Carbaugh, R-Fort Wayne, clarified that the intent is not to "throw the book" at elementary schoolers, but said "we are trying to wake up the parents because they're kind of at the mercy of their parents."

Rep. Renee Pack, D-Indianapolis, disagreed that such punitive policies are neces-

"We don't have to wake up parents," Pack said. "They're awake and they're taking care of their kids. And they're doing the best they can.

The Indiana Code specifically defines chronic absenteeism as being absent 18 or more days within a school year for any reason— a higher standard than "habitual truancy," which is ten or more days without an excuse.

Under the "compulsory education" laws in Indiana, children must regularly attend school from the time they're seven years old until they turn 18, with some exceptions.

But unless they're excused, students who cut class too often could end up under a juvenile court's supervision. Built-up absences could also prompt prosecutors to file misdemeanor charges against Hoosier parents, given that they are legally responsible for making sure their children go to school.

District officials maintain that chronic absenteeism - which includes excused absences — continues to be a primary issue. Many told lawmakers that the bill should be expanded to include chronically absent students, and not just those who are truant.





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#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Tina K. Purdue, 50

Tina K. Purdue, 50, of Fort Wayne, passed away peacefully Monday afternoon, March 4, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne, surrounded by family and friends.

Boots on July 28, 1973, in Bluffton, to Kenneth E. Boots and Patty Jo Boots (Welches). Tina attended Bluffton High School, participated in choir, and was a member of the

She was born Tina Kristine National Honor Society. She grad-

uated in 1992 and pursued higher education at Ball State University in Muncie. Tina pursued a career in the medical field, making significant contributions in various administrative roles in both Indianapolis and Fort Wayne: her dedication and professionalism earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues and patients

In her free time, Tina enjoyed spending quality time with her family and friends. She enjoyed the company of her pets, especially her latest pug, Bella, who brought her great happiness and comfort.

She is survived by her loving parents, Kenneth (Patty) Boots of Bluffton, cherished son, Hunter D. Purdue, of Waynedale, dear sister, Angela (Jason) Worman of Edmond, Oklahoma, a nephew, Nathan (Courtney) Worman of Bluffton, and a niece, Hannah (Christian) Holcomb of Yukon, Oklahoma.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, led by Pastor Brian Beeks of Monticello United Methodist Church. Visitation will also be held on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the Funeral Service at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made towards funeral expenses through the funeral home or EverLoved.com or donations to Stillwater Home Hospice in Fort Wayne, to honor Tina's compassionate spirit and dedication to helping others. Tina's memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. May she rest in peace.

### **Ossian Rotary will** host blood drive

Ossian Rotary is teaming up with the American Red Cross and First Baptist Church of Ossian to host another blood drive event on March 11 from 1-6 p.m. at the church, 1001 Dehner Drive on Ossian's north side.

Donors at previous blood drives report feeling great about helping others, and are a vital step in saving lives. Pre-scheduled appointments are highly encouraged to allow your donation time to better match your availability. To make an appointment or to learn more, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App or visit RedCrossBlood.org and search sponsor code OSSIAN. You may also call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Completion of a RapidPass® online health history questionnaire is encouraged to help speed up the donation process. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

According to Ossian Rotary President Jeremy Penrod, "Ossian Rotary strives to help those in need in our community. What better way to do that than taking a few minutes to give blood? Please help our blood drive be suc-

Ossian Rotary is a small part of a larger organization, Rotary International, which was founded over 110 years ago in Chicago. Ossian Rotary is a group of people with a desire to meet new people, network, get involved and make a difference in Ossian and other communities. Each week features a different speaker, who helps attendees stay informed on topics that are relevant to our community. Anyone is welcome to donate and help those in need. Please contact Carol Keplar, Ossian Rotary Blood Drive Chair, at rotarycarolk@gmail.com for more information, or call 260-402-8252.

### **Obituary Policy**

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person,

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

### **Corrections and clarifications**

Coach and teacher Kyle Penrod spoke during Southern Well's work session about a new gym, not Athletic Director Todd Thieme, as stated in the article on March



### **Donation** to the arts

First Bank of Berne recently made a \$1,000 donation to Creative Arts. Pictured left to right, Erica Bennett, FBB Bluffton branch manager and Janiece Lipsey, executive director at Creative Arts. (Photo provided)

### Police Notebook

### **INCIDENTS**

#### **County:**

South 300 West and West Driver cited for speeding 76 1200 South, Keystone. Driver warned for speeding and expired plates, vehicle not registered to driver. Vehicle impounded.

Wednesday, 5:42 p.m., 400 block of Cedar Road, Bluffton. Protective order served to Bobbi Wright.

Wednesday, 1:42 p.m., Adams Street, Bluffton. in a 55 mph zone.

> Thursday, 6:36 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Joel Newman.

#### Ossian:

Wednesday, 3:11 p.m., S.R. 1 and East 500 North, Ossian. Driver pulled over without receiving license and traveling at an unreasonable rate of speed (89

Thursday, 12:36 a.m., Silo Farms. Car alarm set off by tow company coming to repossess vehicle.

### **ARRESTS**

Ramon Ignacio Rinconfor speeding after initially Vasquez, 35, Fort Wayne, \$1,500.

Wednesday, 6:35 p.m., failing to stop. Subject resisting law enforcement North 100 East and South charged with operating using vehicle, a Class A misdemeanor, reckless driving and operating without ever obtaining license, both Class C misdemeanors. Bond set at \$2,500.

Joel Campbell Newman, 35, Poneto, unlawful carrying of a handgun, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at

### Lawmakers revive restaurant carry-out alcohol in finalized legislation

#### By LESLIE **BONILLA MUÑIZ Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Expect to see happy hours and the option to add a cocktail to your carry-out restaurant order as soon as July, under finalized legislation approved Thursday. It now goes to the governor.

House and Senate Hoosier lawmakers were briefly at odds over the prospect of legalizing take-out alcohol which comes in regulated to-go beverage containers — but settled their differences in a final draft both chambers overwhelmingly approved.

The bill now goes to Gov. Eric Holcomb.

Restaurants and craft

manufacturers say House Bill 1086 would enable them to boost traffic during off-peak hours and cater to increasingly common consumer preferences. Opponents cautioned against an alcohol expansion, noting potential impacts on substance use disorder.

The House legislation originally included both provisions, but even members of that chamber had concerns about how the tamper-evident to-go bags, dubbed "qualified containers," would work.

A Senate committee later ditched the language.

When the House dissented from those changes, lawmakers of both chambers headed to conference committee to negotiate a final version — which closely resembles earlier The bill legalizes happy

hours — currently, retailers must hold all-day promotions — and requires that retailers get liquor liability insurance worth at least \$500,000 to obtain or renew a permit after July 1. It revives the carry-out

drink provision, but with a stipulation that the qualified containers restaurants use must be new.

Conference Committee Chair Jake Teshka, R-North Liberty, said he made the change so customers can't bring containers back to be

And it maintains bans on retailer-hosted games that are determined by the quantity of alcohol competitors consume and on drinks as prizes — except, as added in conference committee for drinks won in charity gambling or sold in charity auctions.

Teshka said that edit would avoid a conflict with charity-related alcoholic beverages allowances already on the books.

The House approved the finalized bill on an 80-12 vote, and the Senate on a 39-9 vote. Most votes in opposition came from Republicans breaking with their caucuses.

### **Emergency powers change clears General Assembly – moves to governor**

#### By CASEY SMITH **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

A law limiting the emergency powers of the governor heads to Gov. Eric Holcomb's desk after a Thursday vote. Senators passed Senate Bill 234 on a 40-8 concurrence vote, mostly along party lines.

Under the proposal, an Indiana governor may only declare an emergency for 60 days before the General Assembly must intervene. With their approval, the governor can file a 60-day extension.

The language only impacts statewide emergen-

The bill now goes to Gov. Eric Holcomb, who said he will sign it.

'When SB 234 reaches my desk, I intend to sign it. A big thank you is owed to the authors of the bill and the leadership in the

thoughtful collaboration to achieve the proper guardrails during a statewide emergency while still preserving critical flexibility and authority to react to the unforeseen.

Currently the state's leader can only authorize an emergency declaration for 30 days but has endless renewals — a power Holcomb exercised during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Authors cited that repeated emergency declaration as the impetus of the bill. During COVID-19, lawmakers convened multiple times without taking actions to limit Holcomb's emergency

Holcomb is term limited and a slew of Republican candidates have tossed their hat in the ring to succeed him. The win-

General Assembly for the ner of the May primary will likely be the next state governor and at least one candidate has voiced fullthroated support for the measure: Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch.

> ... For our government to serve the people best, we need a balance of power. I am committed to working with legislators to ensure that Hoosiers always have a say in matters that directly impact their families and businesses, especially in a prolonged emergency situation," Crouch said in a campaign newsletter this

> Crouch and her competitors were similarly supportive of the Senate version, which would have limited the office to an initial 30-day declaration followed by one renewal but only for federal funding

### **VISITATION & SERVICES** Tina K. Purdue Calling: 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 9. **Service:** 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9 at the funeral home. Thoma/Rich, Lemler

**Funeral Home** 308 W. Washington St. 824-3850

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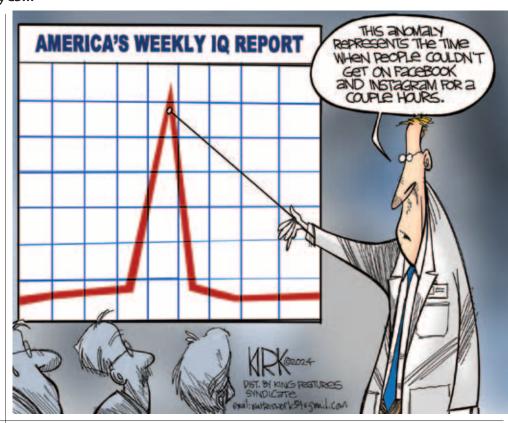
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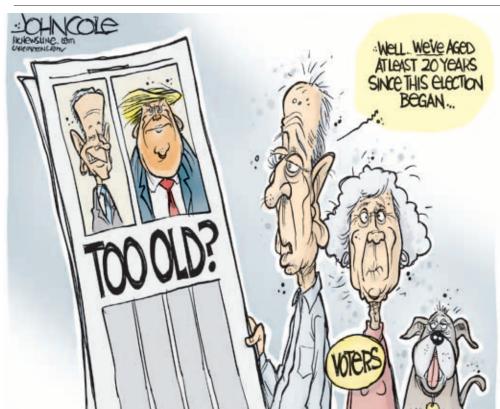
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### The Week That Was - a look back through cartoonists' eyes...









### **Other Opinions**

### **Feeding the** U.S. war machine

The United States' military has a habit. It is in constant need of a fix. And it has repeatedly shown that it will say or do anything, without any shame or qualms, to satisfy its craving. The U.S. already has the most powerful military, yet the U.S. top brass are constantly hyping up external threats to try and get more money for their buzz-giver of choice.

This time, it is Stephen Whiting, head of the U.S. Space Command, who has sounded the alarm over what he perceives as China's rapid advancement in space technology, warning of the potential threats he alleges it poses to U.S. interests in outer space.

Speaking before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday, Whiting set off a siren about China's "breathtaking" progress in military space technology and counterspace capabilities, which he claimed are aimed at denying the U.S. and its allies access to space assets when necessary. By 2030, he cautioned lawmakers, China will have reached "world-class status in all but a few space technology areas".

Whiting didn't bother to hide the addiction motivating such scaremongering, claiming there was "an urgency for our Command to advocate for delivery of new space capabilities and capacity to retain an enduring competitive advantage" in the space domain.

His playing up of a military threat from China was echoed at the same event by Anthony Cotton, head of the U.S. Strategic Command. The purpose of their hustling, as was evident, was to get cash, and lots of it, in order to modernize the U.S. nuclear triad capabilities, that is its ability to strike from the land, sea and air, a mammoth project expected to ultimately cost \$1.5 trillion over the next 30 years. Their unfounded scaremongering was a textbook U.S. military hustle that played to the gallery of their sponsors' bias. Their pantomime portrayal of China as the villain of their story is risible because contrary to their money-tapping tall tales, no country has posed a more serious threat to other countries' security in space than the U.S.

The country has in recent years taken significant actions such as establishing the U.S. Space Force as a new military wing and setting up the U.S. Space Command as a unified combatant command — to accelerate its militarization of space. It is also actively deploying offensive weapons in space and conducting military exercises and technical experiments there. Such moves undermine world peace and stability and risk triggering an arms race in space.

Belying their budget-badgering scare stories, China has advocated the peaceful use of space and opposed a space arms race. It has called on countries to work together to build a community of shared future in space and to carry out in-depth exchanges and cooperation for the mutually beneficial utilization of outer space. It has actively promoted talks on an arms-control treaty on outer space, and cosponsored related United Nations General Assembly resolutions such as No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. Facts show that China has remained a stabilizing force, rather than a threat as claimed by the U.S., and it is the leading advocate for cooperative space utilization and exploration for the common security and well-being of humankind.

The U.S. should abandon its Cold War mentality, follow the trend of the times, and join China and other countries in the efforts to preserve space as a global commons, where all countries share broad common interests. Space should be an exciting new frontier for cooperation rather than a battle-

### field for falsely fear-fueled confrontation. THE CHINA DAILY

the court practices an origia strict originalist approach would yield an undesirable outcome, professed fealty to originalism gives way to

Some might call this results-oriented reasoning hypocritical. In this instance — I agree with the bottom line — I'll go with a welcome display of intellectual flexibility and common sense. In my view, the court was correct to consider the practical fallout of letting Colorado remove former president Donald Trump from its primary ballot, as all nine justices agreed should not be allowed. Maybe we're

all living constitutionalists

justices discussing the dangerous consequences of letdidates for president should be allowed on the ballot.

"An evolving elec-

would be all the more acute — and could nullify the votes of millions and change the election result — if Section 3 enforcement were attempted after the Nation has voted. Nothing in the Constitution requires that we endure such chaos — arriving at any time or different times, up to and perhaps beyond the Inauguration.'

That sounds, to me, responsibly practical. But these same justices have a track record of declaring their opposition to logic like this.

'Suppose originalism does lead to a result you happen to dislike in this or that case. So what?" Justice Neil M. Gorsuch wrote in his book on originalism. And more: "The fact is, a good originalist judge will not hesitate to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution's original meaning, regardless of contemporary political consequences." Oh really?

Justice Clarence Thomas purports to be similarly self-abnegating.



two ways to interpret the

as best we can what the

it up," he said in a 2008

lecture. "No matter how

ingenious, imaginative or

artfully put, unless inter-

tied to the original intent

of the framers, they have

no more basis in the Con

stitution than the latest

You might think that self-pro-

a bit more time grappling with the

ing originalist scholars argued that

cation. It received not a mention.

Another chance to pursue an

originalist line of thought: Scholars,

and the lower courts, disagreed about

claimed originalists would have spent

constitutional text. After all, an influ-

ential law review article by two lead-

Section 3 required Trump's disqualifi-

football scores."

pretive methodologies are

Constitution: try to discern

framers intended or make

So much for originalism. We've seen this phenomenon from this conservative, supposedly originalist court before. But Monday's ruling in Trump v. Anderson underscores the undeniable reality: nalism of convenience. When push comes to shove, when practical considerations.

Listen to the conservative ting individual states decide for themselves whether can-

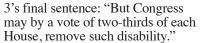
toral map could dramatically change the behavior of voters, parties, and States across the country, in different ways and at different times," the opinion observes. "The disruption

> the Constitution. The court didn't deign to examine this question what Justice Elena Kagan, at oral argument, called "the officer stuff" in their decision. its decision in constitutional text, the

> court arguably got things precisely backward. Section 3 provides that "no person shall ... hold any office" who, having previously taken an

oath to support the Constitution, then "engaged in insurrection." (Emphasis mine.) "Shall" implies that disqualification is automatic, a default position that, like other sections of the 14th Amendment, doesn't require congressional legislation to be effective.

The majority asserts that "the text of Section 3 reinforces [its] conclusions" that Section 3 requires separate congressional enforcement legisla-



As the concurring (but actually dissenting on this point) liberal justices observed, "In fact, the text cuts the opposite way. ... It is hard to understand why the Constitution would require a congressional supermajority to remove a disqualification if a simple majority could nullify Section 3's operation by repealing or declining to pass implementing legislation." Trump's own lawyer, they noted, acknowledged this "tension" at oral argument.

Meanwhile, the court's paeans to the rights of voters and its worry about state-by-state patchworks don't track with the Constitution's provisions assigning state legislatures the authority to determine how to choose presidential electors. Back in the day (1868, when the 14th Amendment was ratified), primary elections didn't exist, state legislatures chose senators

and presidential electors were still legally free to cast votes however they wanted. So protecting popular sovereignty isn't exactly ... originalist.

You know who understands that the originalist justices lost their way here? Actual originalists, who are beside themselves. "The Originalist Disaster in Trump v. Anderson," Michael Rappaport, director of the Center for the Study of Constitutional Originalism at the University of San Diego School of Law, headlined a blog post.

"It is understandable that the Supreme Court would have decided the case on this nonoriginalist basis," Rappaport wrote. "It does not want to wade into the question of whether Trump engaged in an insurrection. The Republic will not fall because the Court engaged in an unprincipled, pragmatic resolution where its selfinterest was severely implicated. But let's not kid ourselves that this was originalism. It was not."

And let's not kid ourselves about what's going on here. Originalism is a method rigged to produce a result — no abortion rights, easy access to guns — that is congenial to conservatives' ideological preferences. On the occasions when it's not, they cherry-pick history or, as here, abandon the approach, with nary an acknowledgment. Hypocrisy in the service of a sensible outcome may not be the worst vice, but it shouldn't go unremarked.

ruthmarcus@washpost.com.



whether the president is an "officer"

and the presidency an "office" under

Indeed, to the extent it grounded

tion. It points, implausibly, to Section



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### Balancing boundaries and support

Dear Annie: I have been dating supportive and my boyfriend for four years and am very lucky to call him mine. He loves me well, gets along with everyone he that, as he commeets and is very giving. His mother, plains almost on the other hand, is a taker, financially every waking and emotionally. She hates her job and where she lives but is not willing to make a change. She relies on her two sons emotionally, calling them multiple times a week to complain about her job and life in her town. Family vacations are a drag due to the conversation being dominated by her constant discussion of her weight or fancy dinners she suggests but never picks up the tab for.

I've mentioned my concerns to my partner, and he validates them but is not willing to talk with his mother. I'm happy to have a conversation with his mother, more along the line of how therapy would be a great resource (I've done it before and it rocks), but I do not want to overstep. I fear the boundaries I'm beginning to put up are going to pull my family away from her in the future if she doesn't seek help. — Hope

Dear Hope to Help: I can hear the frustration in your words, and it's understandable that you're feeling torn between wanting to help and not wanting to overstep boundaries.

Expressing your concerns to your partner — and having him validate them - is a great first step, even if he's not quite ready to address his mother directly. In the meantime, consider having a gentle and non-confrontational conversation with your partner's mother. Next time she brings up something she's unhappy with in her life, tell her how much you have found therapy to be a helpful resource. Opening up about your own experience with therapy might be enough to encourage her to give it a

Dear Annie: My boyfriend of six years has multiple ailments. I try to be

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



erally nonstop, and there is nothing his doctor or I can do.

help in any way

I can. But I find

moment, my

patience is wear-

ing thin. It also

stresses me out

and frustrates me

because it is lit-

He has a sister who also complains nonstop about ailments, and she has lost relationships due to the stress it causes. I find myself avoiding spending time with him, and I feel sad and guilty.

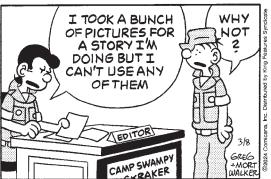
Do you have any advice for me? Other than the nonstop whining and complaining, he and his sister are good, thoughtful people. — Need Earplugs

Dear Earplugs: Being the partner of a person with severe health issues is no easy feat. While it's important to be supportive and empathetic of your boyfriend's health woes, you must also look out for your own well-being.

Gently explain to your boyfriend the toll his negativity takes on you and see what outlets are available for him to work through living with his struggles. Your boyfriend, and his sister, for that matter, might really benefit from support groups, physical therapy or counseling in an effort to cope with their ailments, whether real or imagined.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http:// www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

**BEETLE BAILEY** 





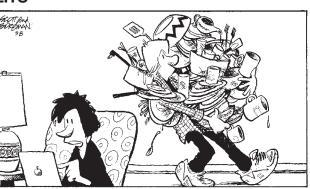
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### **CRANKSHAFT**







**My** Answer

> By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: My oldest daughter died of cancer after several years of pain and heartache. She was unable to raise her children and had to depend on others to do so. Her testimony was remarkable, and though I raised her to love and serve the Lord, I'm struggling to follow my own advice; that we should give thanks to God in everything. Why can't I see how this can be applied honestly? -B.H.

Answer: The Bible tells us to be thankful to God in all things (see 1 Thessalonians 5:18). It's not that we thank God that loved ones have been taken from us, but if they're Christians, we are thankful that they're in Heaven where pain and death will never

### When we seize God's strength, we grow with a deeper sense of God's love

touch them again. Be thankful that God is with us in our own grief. God is still in control even when we don't understand all that happens in this sin-scarred world. Like the Apostle Paul, we can be sorrowful yet always rejoicing (see 2 Corinthians 6:10).

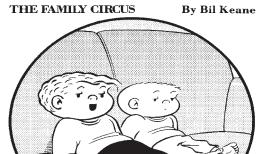
It's important that we confess to God how we really feel. He already knows it, of course, but we need to be honest with Him. We must always remember the pain that Jesus endured for us on the cross. He suffered unlike anyone in all of history. Christ was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (see Isaiah 53:3). He knows about suffering and He wants to help us in our own times of despair, whether from

loneliness, anger, or any other emotion that grips

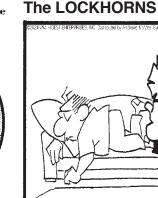
When we seize God's strength, we grow with a deeper sense of God's love and we begin to feel His comfort. He came "to comfort all who mourn ... to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise" (Isaiah 61:2-3, NKJV). When we know the Lord in a personal — when we belong to Him as His child — He will restore our joy and bring peace into our lives.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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"You know you're growin' up when your toes keep getting farther away."



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"LEROY IS EXHAUSTED...HE SPENT ALL DAY UNSUBSCRIBING FROM THINGS HE NEVER SUBSCRIBED TO."

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Yesterday's answer 3-8											clea	ner
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### Anthony Edwards scores 44, has spectacular last-second block as Wolves beat Pacers

By MICHAEL MAROT **AP Sports Writer** 

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Anthony Edwards matched his season high with 44 points, made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 1:11 remaining and came up with a spectacular block at the buzzer to give the short-handed Minnesota Timberwolves a 113-111 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Thursday night.

Edwards soared to reject a last-second layup by the Pacers' Aaron Nesmith, hitting his head on the rim as the buzzer sounded. He yelled, flexed his muscles and chest-bumped Rudy Gobert in celebration.

Gobert added 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who played without All-Star Karl-Anthony Towns. Minnesota moved into the top spot in the Western Conference, one-half game ahead of Oklahoma

Neither team led by more than five points over the final 20 minutes, and Edwards scored the final eight points for the Wolves.

Pascal Siakam scored 24 points and Tyrese Haliburton added 23 points and 13 assists for the Pacers, who trailed by 17 points in the first half but led 104-103 on Siakam's powerful dunk with 2 minutes left. Indiana has lost three of four and is eighth in the East.

With Edwards in charge, Minnesota took a 54-37 midway through the second quarter only to see the Pacers cut the deficit to 60-49

Indiana then opened the second half on 19-4 run and finally took the lead on Myles Turner's dunk after a Minnesota turnover made it 68-66 midway through the third.

From there, it was a back-and-forth game until Edwards' closing flurry.

Towns sat out with a sore left knee, and Indiana also was short-handed. Starting guard Bennedict Mathurin was out with a shoulder injury and is expected to miss at least three more games.

**UP NEXT** 

Pacers: Visit Orlando on Sunday.

### **High School Calendar**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7** No events scheduled. FRIDAY, MARCH 8 No events scheduled **SATURDAY, MARCH 9** TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell at Bulldog Invite at Indiana Tech (Warrior Park), 10 a.m. **MONDAY, MARCH 11** No events scheduled. **TUESDAY, MARCH 12** 

No events scheduled. **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13** No events scheduled. THURSDAY, MARCH 14 No events scheduled. FRIDAY, MARCH 15 TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Bluffton, Norwell at Taylor University Qualifier, 5:30 p.m. SATURDAY, MARCH 16

### Nebraska women advance past **Purdue in Big Ten Tournament**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jaz Shelley had 19 points, seven assists and seven rebounds to lead fifth-seeded Nebraska to a 64-56 win over 12th-seeded Purdue in the second round of the Big Ten Tournament on

The Cornhuskers (20-10) will take on fourth-seeded Michigan State in Friday's quarterfinals. Nebraska won 80-74 at Michigan State on Dec. 9.

Shelley was 6-of-12 shooting with four 3-pointers for Nebraska, which got 15 points from Callin Hake, nine in the fourth quarter. Alexis Markowski added 12 points, seven rebounds and six assists in Nebraska's third win over Purdue this season.

Sophie Swanson scored a career-high 25 points with seven 3-pointers on nine attempts from the arc, including five in the final quarter. Her seven 3s tied a Purdue freshman record. Abbey Ellis added 11 points and Jeanae Terry grabbed 11 rebounds for the Boilermakers (13-18).

Swanson hit a 3-pointer to open the fourth quarter and tie the game then Nebraska went on a 19-3 run for its largest lead of 16 with four minutes left. Consecutive 3s by Swanson got the Boilermakers within eight and her final 3 with 17 seconds left made it 62-56 before Hake sank two free throws.

Purdue led 12-7 after one quarter but was tied 25-all at halftime on Shelley's 3 with three seconds remaining. Nebraska led by as many as nine in the third quarter before a 6-0 Purdue run to end the quarter capped by a Swanson 3 cut the lead to 40-37.

### Oakland tops Purdue Fort Wayne in Horizon League Tournament

Watts led Oakland over Purdue Fort Wayne on Thursday night with 18 points off of the bench in a 75-65 win in the Horizon League Tournament.

Watts shot 7 of 10 from the field and 4 for 4 from the free-throw line for the Golden Grizzlies (21-11). D.Q. Cole went 6 of 8 from the field (2 for 3 from 3-point range) to add 14 points. Chris Conway finished 5 of 6 from the field to finish with 11 points, while adding four blocks.

Rasheed Bello finished with 16 points and five assists for the Mastodons (21-12).

ROCHESTER, Mich. (AP) — Rocket Jalen Jackson added 15 points and two steals for Purdue Fort Wayne. Anthony Roberts also had 13 points.

Oakland took the lead with 16:45 left in the first half and did not give it up. Cole led their team in scoring with 14 points in the first half to help put them ahead 38-27 at the break. Oakland used a 9-0 run in the second half to build a 23-point lead at 57-34 with 12:17 left in the half before finishing off the

The Grizzlies play No. 7 seed Cleveland State on Monday in the semifinals at Indiana Farmers Coliseum in Indianapolis.

### **News-Banner Scoreboard**

### **BASKETBALL High School**

Boys' Basketball Regional Schedule East Chicago Central vs. Misha-

Fort Wayne North Side vs. Fort

Wayne Wayne Kokomo vs. Fishers New Palestine vs. Ben Davis Franklin Community vs. Center

Avon vs. Lawrence North Jeffersonville vs. Evansville Har-

Peru vs. West Lafayette Glenn vs. Suth Bend St. Joseph

Delta vs. Fort Wayne Concordia Lutheran Batesville vs. scottsburg Northview vs. Danville Guerin Catholic vs. Indianapolis

George Washington Southridge vs. Evansville Bosse North Judson-San Pierre vs. 21st

Century — Gary Wapahani vs. Tipton Wabash vs. Westview Fort Wayne Blackhawk Christian vs. Lafayette Central Catholic

Switzerland County vs. Forest

Irvington Prep vs. Park Tudor Sullivan vs. Brownstown Central Parke Heritage vs. Northeastern 1A Marguetto Cathelia vs. PoMetto Marquette Catholic vs. DeMotte

Christian
Seton Catholic vs. Libery Christian Tri-County vs. Elkhart Christian Fort Wayne Canterbury vs. North Vermillion

Bethesda Christian vs. Clay City Oldenburg Academy vs. Green-wood Christian Christian Academy of Indiana vs. Barr-Reeve Trinity Lutheran vs. Evansville

Christian College Men's Basketball Scores

Thursday, Mar. 7 EAST Boston U. 70, Navy 61 Bucknell 80, American 57 Colgate 81, Holy Cross 64 Fairfield 74, Canisius 62 Lehigh 76, Lafayette 61 Manhattan 77, Iona 60

Md.-Eastern Shore 67, Delaware

Niagara 66, Siena 59 Quinnipiac 73, Marist 64 Rider 61, St. Peter's 56 UAB 100, Temple 72 SOUTH

Austin Peay 77, North Alabama 71 Belmont 86, Valparaiso 61 Catawba 80, Wingate 62 Clark Atlanta 54, Savannah St. 53 Flagler 76, Georgia College 64 Georgia Southern 76, South Alabama 71

Lincoln Memorial 70, Carson-Newman 65 Louisiana-Lafayette 80, Coastal

Miles 66. Allen 51 Missouri St. 60, Murray St. 35 NC Central 79, SC State 68 North Georgia 58, Columbus St. 53 Nova Southeastern 124, Lynn 89 Stetson 88, Jacksonville 87 Texas St. 75, Southern Miss. 59 MIDWEST

Cleveland St. 82, Youngstown St.

Evansville 59, Illinois St. 53 Indianapolis 77, McKendree 68 N. Kentucky 99, Wright St. 97, OT NW Missouri St. 80, Missouri West-Oakland 75, Fort Wayne 65

W. Illinois 61, Tennessee St. 59
Wisconsin 78, Rutgers 66
SOUTHWEST Abilene Christian 64, Seattle 59 Arkansas Tech 67, Harding 65 Barry 73, Embry-Riddle (AZ) 71 SE Oklahoma 94, S. Arkansas 86 Stephen F. Austin 87, S. Utah 60

Texas-Arlington 71, Cal Baptist 57 Utah Valley St. 63, Tarleton St. 60 FAR WEST

Alaska-Anchorage 81, St. Martin's

Azusa Pacific 56, Hawaii Pacific 55 Hawaii 72, CS Northridge 70 Hawaii Hilo 84, Biola 72 Pepperdine 102, Pacific 43 Tech 79, Texas Rio Grande

Women's Basketball Scores Thursday, Mar. 7 EAST Maryland 75, Illinois 65

Penn St. 80, Wisconsin 56 Rhode Island 70, Dayton 57 SOUTH Alcorn St. 63, MVSU 48

Auburn 67, Arkansas 48 Duke 70, Georgia Tech 58 Florida 62 Vanderbilt 59

Florida St. 70, Wake Forest 53

Louisville 58, Boston College 55 Mercer 67, ETSU 52 Miami 60, North Carolina 59 NC Central 73, SC State 54 Norfolk St. 59. Howard 53

Radford 64, Winthrop 51 SC-Upstate 60, Longwood 37 SE Louisiana 68, Nicholls 62 Southern U. 61, Alabama St. 49 Stony Brook 71, Hampton 35 Tennessee 76, Kentucky 62 Texas A&M 72, Mississippi St. 56 UNC-Greensboro 64, Furman 44 UT Martin 79, Tennessee Tech 71 William & Mary 2, Northeastern 0 Wofford 66, Samford 45 MIDWEST

Presbyterian 54, Charleston South-

Belmont 77, Bradley 72 Cleveland St. 88, N. Kentucky 78 Drake 86, Evansville 53 E. Illinois 60, Tennessee St. 48 E. Illinois 60, Tennessee St. 48 Fort Wayne 66, Detroit 35 Green Bay 94, Youngstown St. 57 III. Chicago 65, Missouri St. 61 Illinois St. 85, Murray St. 75 Loyola Chicago 53, Fordham 52 N. Iowa 91, Indiana St. 62 Nebraska 64, Purdue 56 S. Illinois 60, Velpagies 51 S. Illinois 60, Valparaiso 51 Saint Louis 75, George Washington

Wright St. 70, Milwaukee 60 SOUTHWEST Lamar 69, Houston Christian 47 Texas Tech 74, Houston 60 FAR WEST
Oregon St. 85, Colorado 79, 2OT
San Diego 79, Pepperdine 64
Stanford 71, California 57

**NBA** 

Thursday's Games Detroit 118, Brooklyn 112 Minnesota 113, Indiana 111 Dallas 114, Miami 108

Friday's Games Charlotte at Washington, 7 p.m. New Orleans at Philadelphia, 7 p.m Minnesota at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta at Memphis, 8 p.m. Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

<u>HOCKEY</u>

NHL

Thursday's Games Philadelphia 2, Florida 1 Columbus 4, Edmonton 2 Washington 6, Pittsburgh 0 New Jersey 4, St. Louis 1 Calgary 6, Tampa Bay 3

### Bears, Pro Bowl CB Jaylon Johnson agree to 4-year contract extension

By ANDREW SELIGMAN **AP Sports Writer** 

CHICAGO (ÂP) — The Chicago Bears and Pro Bowl cornerback Jaylon Johnson agreed Thursday to a four-year, \$76 million contract that guarantees him \$54.4 million.

Two people familiar with the situation confirmed the financial terms of the deal, which was first reported by the NFL Network. The people spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the terms were not announced.

'We're extremely excited to be able to keep Jaylon here for the next four years," general manager Ryan Poles said in a

statement. "He's an integral part of our defense and his leadership will help our team continue to ascend.'

The move comes two days after the Bears placed the franchise tag on Johnson. He would have been due \$19.8 million in 2024 had he not agreed to the extension prior to the July 15 deadline. He had said he wanted to remain with the Bears.

Johnson, who turns 25 in April, had four interceptions and returned one for a touchdown last season after picking off one pass in his first three years. He had 10 passes defensed and forced one fumble and was selected second-team All-Pro.

### Jake Paul fight against Mike Tyson is announced for July 20

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - Social media star-turned-boxer Jake Paul will fight former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson on July 20 at AT&T Stadium, Netflix announced Thursday.

The streaming platform will provide live coverage of the bout between the 27-yearold Paul and 57-year-old Tyson, who hasn't fought since he took on Roy Jones Jr. in an exhibition in November 2020. Paul and Tyson will be the main event of the first combat sports show for Netflix in its recent forays into live sports production.

It's still uncertain whether this bout will be staged as an actual pro fight or an exhibition, particularly given the age of Tyson, who will be 58 by July. The specifics still must be approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, which regulates boxing in the state.

Tyson posts workout videos on social media in which he looks sharp in training, but boxing is dangerous at any age. The California State Athletic Commission required his bout against Jones to be an exhibition essentially a lively sparring session.

Paul built a significant fan following as a YouTube influencer before he embarked on a professional boxing career four years ago. He has won nine of 10 fights with six knockouts against mostly undistinguished opponents, including several mixed martial artists and a fellow YouTuber.

His only loss came last year to Tommy Fury, the less-accomplished half brother of WBC heavyweight champion Tyson Fury.

"My sights are set on becoming a world champion, and now I have a chance to prove myself against the greatest heavyweight champion of the world, the baddest man on the planet and the most dangerous boxer of all time. Time to put Iron Mike to sleep,' Paul wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

"Iron Mike" Tyson was the undisputed world heavyweight champion from 1987-90. He retired in 2005 after winning 50 fights, 44 by knockout. His entertaining exhibition bout with Jones was unofficially

"I'm very much looking forward to stepping into the ring with Jake Paul at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas," said Tyson, who was in the crowd in Saudi Arabia last year when Paul lost to Fury. "He's grown significantly as a boxer over the years, so it will be a lot of fun to see what the will and ambition of a 'kid' can do with the experience and aptitude of a GOAT. It's a full circle moment that will be beyond thrilling to watch; as I started him off on his boxing journey on the undercard of my fight with Roy Jones and now I plan to finish him."

Paul had his second pro bout on the undercard of the Tyson-Jones fight, knocking out former NBA player Nate Robinson. His most recent fight was last Saturday, when he stopped journeyman professional boxer Ryan Bourland. Paul has gradually raised his level of

competition in recent years while pursuing his dream of fighting for a real world title. A bout against the still-revered Tyson would be a sidestep on that quest, but still his highest-profile stage yet. Paul's company, Most Valuable Promo-

tions, is partnering with Netflix to stage the

The fight card at the Dallas Cowboys' home stadium will be the third venture into live sporting events for Netflix, which staged a golf/auto racing crossover event last November. Last weekend, the streaming giant held The Netflix Slam, an exhibition tennis match between Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz in Las Vegas.

### F1's Max Verstappen defends his father after Horner criticism

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Three-time defending Formula 1 champion Max Verstappen defended his father amid turmoil at Red Bull and addressed speculation Wednesday that he could switch to Mercedes next season when Lewis Hamilton joins Ferrari.

Jos Verstappen said over the weekend that his son's team will "explode "if Christian Horner remains in charge after the Red Bull team principal's alleged behavior toward a team employee. The younger Verstappen

said his father has always been outspoken.

"He is not a liar, that's for sure," Max Verstappen said in comments reported by the UK-based Press Association ahead of this weekend's Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

Last week, the team's parent company dismissed a complaint of alleged misconduct by Horner toward an unidentified team employee. A day later, a file alleged to contain evidence against Horner was emailed to nearly 200 people in the F1 paddock, including Liberty Media, F1, the FIA, the other nine team principals and multiple media outlets.

Horner has denied any wrongdoing and remained in place for season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix, which featured a dominating win by Verstappen. Jos Verstappen's comments came after the race.

Verstappen, in pursuit of his fourth straight F1 championship, said he wants "a quiet environment where everyone is happy to work." The Dutch driver is under contract with Red bull until 2028 but said Hamilton's surprise switch from Mercedes to Ferrari — in 2025 is proof that anything can happen.

"Nobody would have seen that Lewis would move to Ferrari," Verstappen said. "You never know in general life what happens, or comes to you, or happens around you or what might influence you, so you can never say 100% that that is how it is going to be, and that is the way I approach my life. "But I am very relaxed and very happy at the team

and the performance is there, so there is no reason to

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#### **FOR SALE**

#### Miscellaneous

Difficulty: ★★★★

**EVEREST VX3 ICE & WATER** MACHINE This VENDING Everest VX3 water/ice vending machine is the perfect addition to any business looking to boost their profits. With the ability to dispense both water and ice, this unit is sure to be a hit with customers. The machine is in great working condition and has been slightly used, making it a cost-effective option for those looking to invest in a vending machine. This unit is made in the United States and comes with a unit quantity of 1. Included is an all season insulation package, ice shield ozone disinfection, and cold fusion energy recovery. It is perfect for placement in other beverage and snack vending locations, as well as in restaurant and food service settings. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make extra money with this Everest VX3 vending machine. \$45,000.00

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#### **EMPLOYMENT Help Wanted**

THE CITY OF Bluffton Street Department is accepting applications for a Laborer/Truck Driver. The minimum educarequirement is a nigh school diploma or equivalent. Applicants must possess and maintain a CDL License or obtain one within the time limit. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's office, 128 East Market St, Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at www.blufftonindiana.net.

### **Help Wanted**

3/8

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and physiological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the process. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$56,600 - \$68,400. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Pre-Application can be found on our website

www.wellscountysheriff.com. Once pre-application is completed, details on the paper application will be emailed to the applicant. Return completed paper application to 1615 W Western Ave, Bluffton, Indiana 46714 Attn: Chief Deputy Steele no later than 12:00 pm on March 15, 2024.

**HELOISE HINT:** When preparing yourself for a job interview. Study the company, and be ready to talk about relevant qualifications and experience. You should be able to clearly explain why you want the position and why you want to work for the company. Email HELO-ISE@Heloise.com.

### **Public** e Calendar

MARCH 14 - 10 a.m. EST -Clemens and Carol Burger, owners. Ken-Bar Tool & Engineering Company liquidation! Over 300 lots. 2016 GMC Sierra, 2005 Chevrolet 3500 cargo van, 2008 Mercury Grand Marquis, CNC machines, mills, lathes, ladders, grinders, saws, tooling, tools, more! Preview March 11, 10 a.m.-noon, 3121 S. Walnut St., Muncie, call for information. Pickup March 18 and 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., large items can be picked up by appointment only up to 10 days. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402,

kjauction.com.
MARCH 14 - 6 p.m. - Denver Neuenschwander Estate, sellers. Lehman Park, 212 Park Ave., Berne. 135+/- acres available. Selling in 3 tracts, as a combination or whole unit. Tract 1: 39+/- acres along SR 116, tillable/woods. Tract 2: 48+/- acres along 1000 S, tillable. Tract 3: 48+/- acres along 1000 S, tillable. Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc., 260-724-3499, heartlandauctionrealty.

MARCH 17-25 - (Online Only Auction) - Various consignors, seller. Antiques, primitives, Lionel trains and train items, modern furniture, vintage advertising, household items, patio furniture. Auction Preview: March 19 and March 21 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 118 East Craig St., Ossian, IN. *The* Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

MARCH 23 - 10 a.m. - Various owners represented. Location: Farmers Grain & Ag LLC 1257 St. Rd. 33, Willshire, OH. Tractors, combines, heads & carts, harvest equip., Grain carts, wagons, trucks, trailers, pickups, construction, manure equipment, livestock equipment, hay equipment, planters, no-till drills, sprayers,

cellaneous, mowers & ATVs, toys, native lumber. Questions, call: Farmers Grain & Ag, LLC, 419-495-2338. Auction managers: Ritter Cox, 800-451-2709, 260-609-3306 & Tim Kreider, 260-413-8008. Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 260-244-7606, 800-451-2709, SchraderAuction.com. MARCH 23-30 - (Online Only

Auction) - The Estate of Sandra McCay and others, seller. 2007 Dodge Caliber SXT sedan, 1999 Ford F250 with dump bed, 2013 12' utility trailer, primitives, Turn of the Century cast iron riding horse, quilts, large qty. of crocks, antique furniture, Fenton, Carnival and other glassware. Preview: March 21, March 28 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 816 S. 11th Street, Decatur, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

APRIL 7-14 - (Online Only Auction) - Unique Blue Bar and Grill (Formerly Stag Bar), seller. Ongoing needs. Outstanding collection of beer signs, neon signs, beer taps, collectibles, tools, much more. Preview: April 4 and April 11 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 205 W. Market St., Bluffton, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, http://www. steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

### **SUDOKU ANSWER**

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### **Lottery Numbers**

Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 13-18-19-21-

36 Cash4Life — 31-34-40-51-60, Cash Ball: 01

Quick Draw Midday — 11-13-14-15-21-25-28-32-34-38-49-53-58-62-63-64-

68-73-78-80, BE: 63 Daily Three-Midday 09-06-07, SB: 05 Daily Three-Evening -

00-01-01, SB: 01 Daily Four-Midday -00-04-07-05, SB: 05

09-03-09-00, SB: 01 **Ouick Draw Evening** 05-14-20-24-29-34-39-44-46-47-50-53-56-57-58-

**Daily Four-Evening -**

64-68-71-75-77, BE: 05 Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$6.1 million

**MEGA MILLIONS** Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$687 million

**POWERBALL** Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$521 million

### Help Wanted



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### Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Wells Superior Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No.: 90C01-2308-MF-000016, wherein PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, was Plaintiff, and Nathan T. Nusbaumer, Nichole S. Nusbaumer, was/were Defendant(s), requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 10th day of April, 2024, at the hour of 1:00PM or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 1525 E. Corning Road, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real

Estate in Wells County, Indiana. Lot Numbered Six (6) as known and designated on the recorded plat of Sunnyglenn recorded plat of Sunnyglenn Estates, an addition to the City of Bluffton, reference being had to Plat Book 4, page 43, Wells County, Indiana Records.

More Commonly Known As: 228 Columbian Avenue, Bluffton,

IN 46714 90-08-05-512-006.000-004 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement

Jennifer L. Snook MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C. VARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C.
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Sheriff of Wells County
City of Bluffton

228 Columbian Avenue, Bluffton, IN 46714 Street Address
The Sheriff's Department accuracy of the street address published herein

Type of Service: **Personal** SERVICE DIRECTED TO: Nathan T. Nusbaumer 228 Columbian Avenue Bluffton, IN 46714

Nichole Nusbaumer 228 Columbian Avenue

Bluffton, IN 46714
NOTICE: MARINOSCI LAW
GROUP, P.C. IS A DEBT COL-LECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. nb 3/8, 3/15, 3/22

#### **Help Wanted**

THE WELLS COUNTY Prosecutor's Office is looking to hire a person for an Investigator position. The position is a parttime county-paid position making \$21/hour. The investigator would be responsible for conducting criminal investigations and assisting the Prosecutor in preparing cases for trial. The investigator must be an effective communicator, be proficient with a computer, be able to work independently, and have the ability to be on 24hour call for assistance at crime scenes. Interested persons should go wellscounty.org/prosecutor/ for a more detailed description of this position. Send any resumes to the Wells County Prosecutor's Office, 102 West Market Street, Suite 405, Bluffton, IN 46714 or submit them by email t prosecutor@wellscounty.org.

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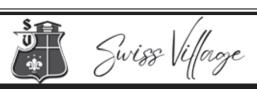
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### Uvalde parents angered by new report that clears police of missteps

UVALDE, Texas (AP) - An investigation Uvalde city leaders ordered into the Robb Elementary School shooting that killed 19 students and two teachers defended the response by local police at a City Council meeting Thursday, prompting shouts of "cowards" from the audience and causing several family members of the victims to angrily walk out of the meeting.

The report acknowledged wide failures by police during the 2022 attack and reiterated rippling missteps that the Justice Department and state lawmakers have previously laid bare. Nearly 400 law enforcement agents, including Uvalde Police Department officers, rushed to the scene of the shooting but waited more than an hour to confront a teenage gunman armed with an ARstyle rifle.

But an investigator hired by Uvalde officials found that the city's officers did not deserve punishment, and in some cases, praised their actions during one of the deadliest classroom shootings in U.S. history. The presentation prompted an eruption of anger among some of the victims' family members, who also scolded the investigator for leaving the room before they had a chance to address him.

"You said they did it in good faith. You call that good faith? They stood there 77 minutes," said Kimberly Mata-Rubio, whose daughter was among those killed in the attack, after the presentation ended.

Jesse Prado, an Austinbased investigator and former police detective who made the report for the Uvalde City Council, began his presentation by describing the failures by responding local, state and federal officers at the scene that day: communication problems, poor training for live shooter situations, lack of available equipment and delays on breaching the classroom.

There were problems all day long with communication and lack of it. The officers had no way of knowing what was being planned, what was being said," Prado said. "If they would have had a ballistic shield, it would have been enough to get them to the door."

The city's report is just one of several probes into the massacre, including the Justice Department report in January that criticized the "cascading failures" of responding law enforce-

Law enforcement took more than an hour to get inside the classroom and kill the gunman, even as children inside the classrooms called 911, begging police to rescue them.

But Prado said his review showed that officers showed "immeasurable strength" and "level-headed thinking" as they faced fire from the shooter and refrained from shooting into a darkened classroom.

"They were being shot at from eight feet away from the door," Prado said.

Prado also said the families who rushed to the school hampered efforts to set up a chain of command as they had to conduct control with parents trying to get in the building or pleading with officers to go inside.

"At times they were difficult to control," Prado said. ' They were wanting to break through police barriers."

Family members erupted when Prado briefly left after his presentation.

"Bring him back!' several of them shouted.

Prado returned and sat and listened when victims' families cried and criticized the report, the council and the responding officers.

"My daughter was left for dead," Ruben Zamorra said. "These police officers signed up to do a job. They didn't do it."

A criminal investigation by Uvalde District Attorney Christina Mitchell's office into the law enforcement response in the May 2022 shooting remains open. A grand jury was summoned earlier this year and some law enforcement officials have already been asked to

Tensions remain high between Uvalde city officials and the local prosecutor, while the community of more than 15,000, about 85 miles southwest of San Antonio, is plagued with trauma and divided over accountability.

Uvalde City Council

member Hector Luevano said he was "embarrassed" and "insulted" by the city's

"These families deserve more. This community deserves more," Luevano said. "I don't accept this report."

The city report comes after a nearly 600-page report by the Department of Justice in January found massive failures by law enforcement, including acting with "no urgency" to establish a command post, assuming the subject was barricaded despite ongoing gunfire, and communicating inaccurate information to grieving families.

"Had law enforcement agencies followed generally accepted practices in active shooter situations and gone right after the shooter and stopped him, lives would have been saved and people would have survived," U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said when the federal report was released.

The DOJ reported that

48 minutes after the shooter entered the school, UPD Acting Chief Mariano Pargas "continued to provide no direction, command or control to personnel."

The city report notes the agency's SWAT team had not trained consistently since before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Three UPD officers who were present in the hallway during the shooting "were the leadership of the SWAT team and had the most experience with Uvalde PD."

Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott initially praised the law enforcement response, saying the reason the shooting was "not worse is because law enforcement officials did what they do.' He claimed that officers had run toward gunfire to save

But in the weeks following the shooting, that story changed as information released through media reports and lawmakers' findings illustrated the botched law enforcement response.

### A Talk with Tego



Rugar is a three-year-old, Texas Heeler, neutered male. He will do best in an

or toy sucking.



Carter is a two-year-old,

tabby, neutered male.

**Tego's Tips:** Some dogs don't out grow blanket, bed

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Cash is a two-year-old, tiger striped, neutered



Tego

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